

King CHARLES's Speech against Tacking.

B E I N G

The latter Part of a Speech of King Charles II. delivered from the Throne to both Houses of Parliament on the 23^d of May, 1678.

With part of the Lord Chancellor (*Finch's*) Speech, deliver'd the same day to both Houses of Parliament.

King's Speech.

ONE thing more I have to add, and that is, to let you know, That I will never more suffer the Course and Method of passing Laws to be chang'd; and that if several Matters shall ever again be Tacked together in one Bill, that Bill shall certainly be lost, let the Importance of it be never so great.

Lord Chancellor's Speech.

THE King hath so far exprest himself this day, that 'tis evident the Manner of your Proceedings is to him as considerable as the Matter, and that he will not accept a good Bill, how valuable soever it may be, unless it comes to him in the Old and Decent method of Parliament.

The late Way of Tacking together several independent and incoherent Matters in one Bill, seems to alter the whole Frame and Constitution of Parliaments, and consequently of the Government it self.

It

It takes away the King's Negative Voice in a manner, and forces him to take All or none; when sometimes one part of the Bill may be as dangerous for the Kingdom, as the other is necessary.

It takes away the Negative Voice of the House of Peers too by the same consequence, and disinherits the Lords of that Honour they were born to, the liberty of debating and judging what is good for the Kingdom.

It looks like a kind of Defamation of the Government, and seems to suppose the King and House of Lords to be so ill-affected to the Publick, that a good Bill cannot carry it self thro by the Strength of its own Reason and Justice, unless it be help'd forward by being Tack'd to another Bill that will be favour'd.

It does at last give up the greatest share of Legislature to the Commons, and by consequence the chief Power of Judging what Laws are best for the Kingdom.

And yet it is a Privilege that may be made use of against the Commons, as well as by them; for if this Method hold, what can hinder the Lords at one time or other from taking advantage of a Bill very grateful to the Commons, and much desir'd by them, to Tack a new Clause to it of some foreign Matter, which shall not be altogether so grateful, nor so much desir'd, and then the Commons must take all or none too?

Thus every good Bill shall be dearly bought at last; and one chief end of calling Parliaments, the making of good Laws, shall be wholly frustrated and disappointed, and all this by departing from that Method which the Wisdom of our Ancestors prescrib'd, on purpose to prevent and exclude such Inconveniences.

These Innovations the King resolves to abolish, and hath commanded me to say to you, *State super vias antiquas.*

The Reader is to take notice, That the 20th of March, 1677. a Bill being past for raising Mony by a Poll and otherwise, to enable his Majesty to enter into an actual War against France, the Commons Tack'd to it a Prohibition of several French Commodities: Which occasion'd the foregoing Speeches. Query, Whether it would not be an unpardonable Sin in Whigs, and such as are Friends to the late Revolution, and consequently to her present Majesty Q. Anne, to run so counter to the Opinions of those two Great Persons abovenam'd, as some Gentlemen of late have done? But some may steal a Horse better than others look over a Hedge.

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Just Publish'd,
A Serious Address to the Commoners of England, concerning their approaching Elections.

